



Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

LIFETIME

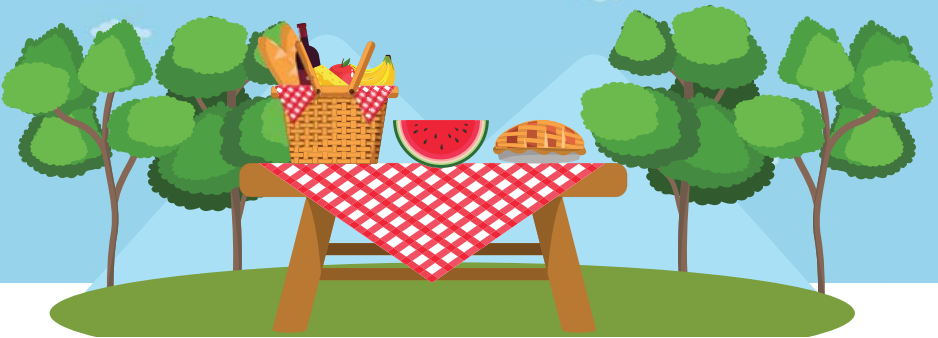
AUGUST 2023 VOLUME 26 NUMBER 8

SUMMER PICNIC

You're invited!

Thursday, August 3rd 5:30PM – 8:00PM
Wagner Pavilion in Asbury Park

Please join us for our annual membership picnic! DCRTL will provide the fried chicken. If you wish to bring a favorite dish or beverage to share, please do. We look forward to celebrating LIFE with you and your family at this fun event!



11th Annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

On Saturday, September 9th, 2023, solemn prayer vigils will be held around the country (including Cedar Rapids, Rockford, and Madison) at the gravesites of our aborted brothers and sisters, and at dozens of other sites dedicated in memory of aborted children.

We are in the process of planning an ecumenical memorial service at the Mount Olivet Cemetery Memorial for the Unborn on or around that day. More details to come in the September Newsletter.



August 2023

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Office Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
Weekends: Closed

Dyersville Office:

1657 15th Avenue S.E.
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Dubuque County Right to Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, education organization dedicated to preserving and fostering respect for human life from conception to natural death. We educate the public about the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide.

August 2023

Thursday,
August 3rd
5:30 - 8 PM

Summer Picnic
(Asbury Park Wagner Pavilion)

Wednesday,
August 16th
6:15pm

Ambassadors for Life Come & See Pizza
& Game Night (DCRTL Office)

Thursday,
August 17th

Board of Directors meeting

Thursday,
August 24th
7 - 8 PM

Holy Hour for Respect Life
(St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta)

September 2023

Saturday,
September 9th

11th Annual National Day of
Remembrance for Aborted Children

Wednesday,
September 13th
6:15pm

Ambassadors for Life meeting

Thursday,
September 21st

Board of Directors meeting

Thursday,
September 28th
7 - 8 PM

Holy Hour for Respect Life
(St. John the Baptist Church, Peosta)

PLEASE NOTE: Every Thursday, we carpool to Emma Goldman Clinic to pray during the time they are doing abortions. We depart the DCRTL office at 6:00 AM and return at around noon time. You do not need to sidewalk advocacy if you do not feel called to do it. It is great to have people out there praying on a public sidewalk, and there is great power in that. Please let us know prior to the day by calling 563-556-5960 or e-mailing us at reception@dcrtl.org so we know to expect you.

WISH LIST

- Postage Stamps
- Diapers for Clarity Clinic - especially sizes 5 & 6 - (we will continue to collect through August).





A NOTE FROM AUGUSTINE PAYNE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello fellow Pro-Lifers!

Iowa has seen a lot of action in the past month when it comes to the Pro-Life cause. Art covers the legal side of the Heartbeat Bill on page five, and Grace's section on page seven covers our travels for The Heartbeat Bill and the Iowa State March for Life. Grace did a phenomenal job speaking at the State March for Life as well as at the State Legislature Committee Hearings. After the Senate Committee Hearing, a few of the senators wanted to express their gratitude for her testimony and grab a photo. Grace was also mentioned in various news media outlets and on Twitter as her story of changing her mind from being pro-choice was something they were finding hard to believe.

Embrace Life Campaign Update

Last Fall, so many of you supported our Fall Education Drive so we could design a new campaign that would help spread the message to those seeking help for an unplanned pregnancy, that there are life affirming options available. We saw some of the progress at the Life Dinner, but I would like to share a snapshot of the billboards that have been created as part of this campaign by one of our great volunteer's, McKenna Richards (*see one of them below*).

These billboards went through several changes from massaging, to looks and appearances. I thank all of those who provided the initial feedback to get us to where we are today. We will do a soft launch on the billboard on Rt. 20 (above the BP gas station) before placing them in other areas in and around the city. If you see the billboards, let us know what you think.

In September, we will also begin doing similar messaging on social media. Not only is this where we are more likely to reach those who would be needing the resources, but by doing it on a variety of different platforms, the likelihood that someone will not only see it, but remember it, dramatically increases.

If you are on social media and you come across the ads, please click the share button so your social media friends become aware of the options that are available as well. Many women cite affordability as a reason they seek abortion, so let's make sure they know that there is help available.

Many thanks for your support!! Because of your generous contributions, mothers and families will know that there is help available regardless of the situation they are in.

For Life,

Augustine Payne

P.S. I hope your summer is going well! We have our annual summer picnic on Thursday, August 3rd. I hope you can join us for an evening of great food and wonderful company!

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Mary McDermott.....	Dianne Reiter
Ann Phillips.....	Bonnie Heisler
Janet Schmitt.....	Tom Lucas, John Lukasik, Patricia Heiderscheid
Janell Then.....	Bonnie Hessler, Ed & Mary Kluesner

In Honor of:

Mary Ann Boever (birthday).....	Keith & Jenny Boever
Irene Scherrman (90th birthday).....	Paul Cavanagh

When a gift is given in memory or in honor of a loved one, an acknowledgement card is sent to the person or family you designate. With gifts of \$250 or greater, their name is engraved on our memorial plaque, displayed in our office. Simply send us, along with your gift, the name of the person you are honoring and the name and address of the family to whom you'd like the acknowledgement sent. We'll be happy to send a card.



- Karen Timmerman, and Clem & Judy Walleser for dropping off fabric to wrap the babies for the Fair!
- Clem & Judy Walleser for donating napkins, forks, and plates, for our upcoming events!
- Thank you to all those who dropped off diapers and items for Clarity Clinic!! If you would still like to assist, we will continue to collect them for August!
- Dr. Jack & Laura Dolehide for donating printer paper!



Trivia Night:

Gather your teams! Trivia Night will be Saturday, November 11th, at St. Columbkille's Parish Hall (1240 Rush St. Dubuque). 5:00 pm - doors open 7:00 pm - games begin. Food will be provided by the Knights of Columbus for a \$5 donation. BYOB if desired. Teams are groups of 8 and under. Register by calling the DCRTL office at 563-556-5960 or email us at dctrl@dctrl.org.



PRO-LIFE COURT & LEGISLATION UPDATE



by Art Gilloon, DCRTL board member & attorney

Dear Pro Life Friends:

Well, we finally know the fate of Iowa's Heartbeat bill... at least for now. Here is a brief history and then an update.

The Fetal Heartbeat Law was passed originally by the Iowa Legislature in 2018 to protect preborn children from being aborted after their heartbeat could be detected. State Rep Shannon Lundgren of Peosta shepherded the bill through as a first year legislator. That law was blocked by the courts in 2018, but when the Iowa Supreme Court in the Summer of 2022 found that the Iowa Constitution does not contain a right to abortion, the Governor went back to court to get the law unblocked. On June 16, 2023, the Iowa Supreme Court deadlocked in a 3-3 vote, so the 2018 law remained blocked.

Governor Kim Reynolds then called a special session of the Iowa Legislature for July 11, 2023.. Again, Shannon Lundgren courageously shepherded the bill through the House, and Senator Amy Sinclair did the same in the Iowa Senate. It passed on July 11th. In the Iowa House, with every Democrat voting against the bill and every Republican except two voting in favor of life. In the Senate, all Democrats voted against the bill and all Republicans voted in favor of life except one.

Within three days of Governor Reynolds signing the new Fetal Heartbeat Law, Planned Parenthood, Emma Goldman abortuary in Iowa City, and a death peddling abortionist filed a lawsuit with a Polk County District Court to block it. On Monday, July 17, 2023, a judge blocked it again. Fortunately, four days later, pro-life Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird filed an appeal of the judge's decision to the Iowa Supreme Court.

So now the battle renews. Planned Parenthood, Emma Goldman, and the death-peddling abortionists' lawsuit will wind its way through the system up to the Supreme Court of Iowa. So for now, abortion remains legal in Iowa during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy.

We all know life begins at conception, that a heartbeat is detectable at six weeks, and the human body is completely formed at 10 weeks. Death chambers like Emma Goldman will continue to kill babies and harm women, offering nothing to solve the problems that bring them to the killing door: lack of funds, inadequate healthcare, educational hurdles, and the like, all of which the Pro-Life movement stands ready, willing, and able to address.

We are living in a time just like our country went through with slavery. It is a political, legal, and moral/cultural battle. The Democrat party was the party of slavery then and is now the party of abortion... killing babies and harming women. Republicans opposed slavery then, and now oppose killing babies and harming women through abortion. Every single Republican present in the legislature on July 11, 2023 except three voted in favor of the latest Iowa Fetal Heartbeat Law. Every single Democrat present for the special session voted against it.

We will keep you informed as Iowa's 2023 Fetal Heartbeat Law makes its way to the Iowa Supreme Court, where three Justices appear ready to unblock the law and let it go into effect. Remember, the law imposes no penalties on women who have abortions. We hope and pray that one more Justice on the Iowa Supreme Court will see the case in its correct constitutional light and unblock it, saving thousands of babies in Iowa and protecting hundreds of women from the horrors of abortion.



Pro-Life Court & Legislation Update

...continued from page 5

In other news, a Wisconsin County Circuit Court Judge ruled recently that Wisconsin's 1849 law prohibiting people from killing preborn children through an assault on the mother does not apply to abortion. This was a pro-life loss. This case will wind its way through the Wisconsin court system and ultimately end up before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, where a pro-abortion majority currently exists.

There is more encouraging news from Indiana. On June 30, 2023, the Indiana Supreme Court ruled that the law protecting babies from abortion can go into effect, rejecting the arguments of Planned Parenthood, and ruling that the Indiana General Assembly has broad legislative discretion to determine whether and to what extent they can protect preborn children from abortion. That decision directly led to the closure of an abortion clinic in South Bend, Indiana.

In city news, the new Mayor of Chicago has offered a 225 page "Blueprint for Creating a more Just and Vibrant City for All." At page 135 of that report, the Mayor proposes establishing an "Office of Reproductive Health" within the Chicago Department of Public Health so that the City itself can operate clinics providing chemical abortions (aka. medication abortions). It also creates a "bubble zone," blocking Pro-Life sidewalk advocates from being within eight feet of another person if that person is within 50 feet of an abortion clinic, and if the Pro-Life person's "purpose is to engage in counseling, education, leafleting, hand billing, or protest." In other words, the Mayor of Chicago wants to snuff out Pro-Life educational efforts and to stop Pro-Lifers from providing positive, pro-Life answers to their unintended pregnancies. What a shame. The pro-aborts can't stand it when the truth is shown to women in crisis.

As always, remember the health, lives and safety of pregnant women of their pre-born babies is critical. Resolve to continue offering non-judgmental help and truthful information to women in crisis. Stay educated on the matters set out above and others to come. DCRTL will keep you informed.



Ambassadors for Life is hosting a fun come and see day!

**Wednesday, August 16th
6:15pm
DCRTL office
(2205 Carter Rd, Dubuque).**

There will be pizza, games and info about the Ambassadors for Life. If you are interested in the group, come meet some of the current Ambassadors and see what we do! For planning purposes, please RSVP by Monday, August 14th.

About the Ambassadors

The Ambassadors for Life was started by Dubuque County Right To Life, Inc. (DCRTL) to get high school students involved in the pro-life cause and give them an opportunity to gain leadership experience that they will take with them and build upon for the rest of their lives. We are looking for 1-4 students from each school who want to make an impact sharing the pro-life message and are ready to be leaders. Ambassadors for Life will meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:15pm for 1.5 hours. The Ambassadors for Life three pillars are Activism, Formation, and Fun. By participating in The Ambassadors for Life, you will not only be helping build a culture that respects LIFE, but with the experience you will also have things you can talk about in future job, college, and scholarship applications. If you are interested, or want to learn more, contact Augustine Payne at apayne@dcrtl.org or 563-556-5960.

Our two visits to the State Capitol

by Grace Van Petten

This summer, DCRTL visited our State Capitol in Des Moines twice in just three weeks. We were able to be a part of the first ever Iowa March for Life as well as be present during the passing of the Iowa Heartbeat Bill. These were both two very exciting opportunities and I am so grateful that I was able to witness both! At the Iowa March for Life over 300 people attended, and we listened to many amazing speakers who each shared their unique perspectives that they have within the Pro-Life movement. We heard from Alan Ostergren a lawyer who updated us on the Iowa Supreme Court decision regarding the 2018 Heartbeat Bill, Representative Luana Stoltenberg who shared her personal abortion story, Kathy Barnette who gave her powerful testimony as she was conceived through rape but so grateful for the gift of Life, and we heard from few other leaders who are advocating for Life in Des Moines right now. I also shared my personal testimony of how I went from being “Pro-Choice” to Pro Life because of the loving conversations my friends were willing to have with someone they disagreed with. It is important to speak out for the pre-born because the transformation of minds is possible, and I encouraged others to educate those who were like me. We ended this event by proudly marching together to the State Supreme Court.

Just 17 days later DCRTL headed back to Des Moines. For our second visit, Augustine and I testified for Life in front of the Iowa Legislature. I shared my personal story again as well as a college students’ perspective on this legislation. Next, Augustine spoke on behalf of all our members, and he pointed out that Iowa is a Pro-Life State. He mentioned that Life is the first inalienable right we have and that children in the womb have the same value as all kids, such as his 2-year-old son Max.

At the special session, we also saw the harm of abortion through all the Pro-Abortion advocates that were present. We combatted this through prayer, love, and compassion to everyone that was in attendance. We saw firsthand that at DCRTL, we still have a lot more work to do because so many are misinformed about abortion and are being harmed by this evil. We truly felt how meaningful this work is and being in Des Moines witnessing history with the passing of this Life protecting legislation only made us more driven. Thank you so much for your support in making our trips possible and let us always be ready to have a loving truthful dialogue with those who disagree with us.



Heartbeat Law Hearing Day - July 11, 2023



With Senator Schultz



Testimony being heard in the Senate Committee



Senate Chamber



With Senator Cournoyer



House chamber



Max received a visit and a stuffed version of Mousse (Chocolate Labrador that is part of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force) from Senator Chris Cournoyer.



pro-abortion rally in the rotunda

Pre-Fair Volunteer Day

Thank you to Dianne Reiter, Mary Konrardy, Kathy Slinger, Noelle Javurek, Molly Payne, and Max Payne, for coming out to help prepare over a 1,000 12-week old babies that we can hand out to kids and adults at the Fair!! And thank you to Molly Payne for preparing a wonderful taco lunch for everyone to enjoy!



Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential, and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal, and healing. Each weekend is run by volunteers who care deeply about your needs. Many of the facilitators have suffered the same loss. Rachel's Vineyard can help you find your inner voice. It can help you experience God's love and compassion on a profound level. It creates a place where men and women can share, often for the first time, their deepest feelings about abortion. You are allowed to dismantle troubling secrets in an environment of emotional and spiritual safety. Participants, who have been trapped in anger toward themselves or others, experience forgiveness. Peace is found. Lives are restored. A sense of hope and meaning for the future is finally re-discovered.

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats in the area:

- **October 6-8, 2023 at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque, IA.**
- **November 3-5, 2023 at the Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center in Robins, IA.**
- **November 10-12, 2023 at the Durward's Glen Retreat Center, near Baraboo, WI**

Confidentiality: DCRTL strictly respects confidentiality and privacy. If you or someone you know is hurting, please reach out today. You can email us (dctrl@dctrl.org) or call (563- 556-5960) if you have any questions about participating in the retreat. For more information about Rachel's Vineyard and other retreat locations, visit: rachelvineyard.org.

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salvation of
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Jer. 1:5

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Melissa Noel, 563-564-6365 or
powerofprayerchapel@outlook.com

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Jeremiah 1:5

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